

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

19 MARCH 2019

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Dinuba – Drug Bust in California Linked to Mexican Cartel from Michoacán

(U) According to the DEA, a drug bust of 67 pounds of methamphetamine in Dinuba, California, has been linked to a cartel out of Michoacán, Mexico. Authorities said in a press conference on 15 March, this meth seizure is the biggest by Fresno police. Three individuals were taken into custody on 14 March after a narcotics team found 11-pounds of meth hidden in the car's wheel well. The team was able to track those individuals to a trailer in Dinuba, where the narcotics team seized 56-pounds of meth, a Glock handgun, hundreds of rounds of military rifle ammunition, and an additional three pounds of cocaine. Two additional arrests were made of individuals with alleged ties to a Michoacán cartel.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [AIM](#)

(U) Menlo Park – Former President of Peru Arrested in Menlo Park

(U) A former president of Peru was arrested on 17 March in Menlo Park, and booked on charges of being drunk in public at a restaurant, police said. The former president is wanted back in Peru, he is accused of taking \$20 million in bribe money while he was in office. The sheriff's office released the man on 18 March and said the charges in Peru do not carry over to the United States.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [NBC Bay Area](#)

(U) Scotts Valley – Person Collecting Welfare Runs Illegal Marijuana Operation

(U) The Santa Cruz County Sheriff's Office reported that a Scotts Valley man was being investigated for receiving welfare benefits for over a decade in both Santa Clara and Santa Cruz counties. The man suspected of defrauding welfare was found to have an illegal marijuana grow operation. During their investigation, the suspect purchased a home valued at more than \$1.1 million. A search of the home uncovered 115 cannabis plants, 90-pounds of processed cannabis packaged for resale, \$155,038 in cash, 1,100 vape pen cartridges containing cannabis concentrate, and over 10-pounds of high-concentrate cannabis resin. The total amount defrauded from various welfare programs is still under investigation.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [KCRA 3](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Woman Arrested Attempting to Smuggle 44-pounds of Methamphetamine

(U) Salton City – El Centro Sector US Border Patrol agents working at the Highway 86 immigration checkpoint arrested a woman suspected of smuggling methamphetamine on 16 March. A Border Patrol canine detection team alerted to the woman's vehicle prompting agents to send her to secondary inspection for further investigation. While there, Border Patrol agents discovered 44-pounds of packaged methamphetamine hidden inside the gas tank of the vehicle.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [CBP](#)

(U) Texas – Air Marine Operations Makes \$76 Million Drug Interdiction

(U) Corpus Christi – Agents from US Customs and Border Protection's Air and Marine Operations (AMO) foiled an international attempt to smuggle nearly three-tons of cocaine across open waters between 28

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

Form # 1168-442e-b407-de1a8c242c14

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

February and 2 March. The results of this operation ended in the capture of three suspects, the interception of the illicit narcotics valued at \$76,456,839 and the seizure of two vessels. The AMO crew was patrolling the eastern Pacific Ocean as part of the Joint Interagency Task Force-South when they detected and tracked two go-fast vessels in a two-day period. The first vessel was tracked into Costa Rican territory, where their law enforcement agencies pursued the vessel as its crew began dumping bales of cocaine overboard. The vessel was later found abandoned with more than 2,600-pounds of cocaine valued at \$34,474,930 onboard. The second vessel was successfully intercepted by law enforcement which resulted in the arrest of three suspects, and more than 3,200-pounds of cocaine valued at approximately \$42 Million.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL**(U) Georgia – Third Person Arrested in Multi-Agency Drug Bust**

(U) Cherokee County – Another arrest has been made after authorities seized more than 50,000 counterfeit pills containing fentanyl last week. Investigators said they found a cache of weapons and bump stocks inside a Paulding County storage facility rented in the suspect's name. All three suspects are facing charges of manufacturing illegal opioids.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [FOX 5 Atlanta](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Pediatrician Gets Minimum of 79 Years in Prison after Admitting to Sexually Assaulting 31 Children

(U) Ebensburg – A former Pennsylvania pediatrician was sentenced on 18 March in the sexual assault of 31 children, most of them patients, in a case that state medical regulators allegedly failed to act on nearly two decades ago. Prosecutors say he spent decades abusing boys and girls in the exam room at his pediatric practice in western Pennsylvania and at local hospitals, with his victims typically ranging in age from 8 to 12. One was an infant. The doctor pleaded guilty in December 2018 to some counts and no contest to others. He's currently jailed pending sentencing.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [KCRA](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL**(U) Bangladesh – 7 Dead, Multiple Wounded in Election-Related Attack**

(U) Dhaka – According to officials, Gunmen opened fire on two cars returning from a polling station with ballot boxes, killing at least seven people and wounding 15 in southeastern Bangladesh. The attack took place on 18 March when the polling and security officials were returning from the polling station at Baghaichhari in Rangamati district. It was not immediately clear who were behind the attacks.

SOURCE: 18 March 2019, [Associated Press](#)

(U) Syria – ISIS Camp Captured by US-Backed Forces

(U) Baghouz – The US-backed Syrian Democratic Forces (SDF) are now in control of an Islamic State in Iraq and ash-Sham (ISIS) encampment in Baghouz, after weeks of operations and attacks on the village. The last holdouts of ISIS have been largely confined to Baghuoz since last month, the SDF blew up an ammunition storage area in a final push to take control of the area. On 19 March, the SDF captured hundreds of sick or injured ISIS militants and sent them to nearby hospitals. An SDF official claims they have captured 157 people he described as experienced terrorists — including more than 100 foreign nationals who had flocked to join the extremist group.

SOURCE: 19 March 2019, [NPR](#)

UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.

Warning: This document is the exclusive property of the State Threat Assessment Center (STAC) and is UNCLASSIFIED//FOR OFFICIAL USE ONLY (U//FOUO). It contains information that may be exempt from public release under the California Public Records Act (Govt. Code Sec. 6250-6270). It is to be controlled, stored, handled, transmitted, distributed, and disposed of in accordance with STAC policy relating to U//FOUO information and is not to be released to the public, the media, or other personnel who do not have a valid "need-to-know" without prior approval of an authorized STAC official. No portion of this report should be furnished to the media, either in written or verbal form.

This document contains excerpts of suspicious activities and incidents of interest to the STAC as obtained from open and unclassified sources.